

## Message Text

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TAGS: CASC, SREF, DA

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE CHILDREN IN DENMARK

REF: COPENHAGEN 0411, 75 COPENHAGEN 2190

SUMMARY: THE DAISH AUTHORITIES HAVE FINALLY REMOVED THE VIETNAMESE CHILDREN FROM THE SUPERVISION OF HENNING BECKER, BUT IN A CLUMSY FASHION WHICH HAS BROUGHT THEM BAD PRESS NOTICES AND A GENERAL FEELING THAT THEY MISHANDLED THE SITUATION. THE DANES CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THEIR OFFICIAL POSITION THAT THE CHILDREN ARE REFUGEES OF WAR RATHER THAN POLITICAL REFUGEES, AND AS SUCH CAN EXPECT EVENTUALLY TO BE RETURNED TO VIETNAM. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO EXTEND CONSULAR ASSISTANCE TO AMCITS INTERESTED IN THE CHILDREN BY REFERRING THEM TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES OR ORGANIZATIONS, BUT WILL AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN THE GENERAL SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

1. DANISH AUTHORITIES HAVE AT LONG LAST REMOVED HENNING BECKER FROM HIS POSITION AS ADVISOR/MENTOR TO THE VIETNAMESE CHILDREN HE BROUGHT TO DENMARK LAST APRIL. IN A WEEK MARKED BY CONFUSION AND RANCOR, THE DANES UTILIZED A LARGE POLICE CONTINGENT ACCOMPANIED BY DOGS TO REMOVE THE CHILDREN FROM THE NORTH ZEALAND YOUTH SCHOOL AT HELSINGE ON FEBRUARY 15 AND PLACE THEM IN A DIFFERENT SCHOOL. THIS OPERATION, WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING BECKER'S TEMPORARY ABSENCE FROM THE SCHOOL, WAS REQUESTED BY THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE AUTHORITIES IN HELSINKI AT THE INSTIGATION OF

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THE DANISH SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION, WHICH ACCUSED BECKER OF

BREAKING HIS AGREEMENT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION BY DENYING THE NEWLY-APPOINTED PRINCIPAL, JORGEN CHRISTIANSEN, ACCESS TO THE YOUTH SCHOOL. FOLLOWING THE REMOVAL, THREE OF THE CHILDREN SLIPPED AWAY AND WENT INTO HIDING WITH BECKER. ON FEBRUARY 19 BECKER AND THE THREE CHILDREN FLEW IN A FRIEND'S PRIVATE AIRPLANE TO FLENSBORG, GERMANY, JUST ACROSS THE BORDER. THEY WERE INTERCEPTED BY THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES AND RETURNED TO DENMARK. BECKER AND ONE OF THE VIETNAMESE, A 19-YEAR-OLD, FACE POSSIBLE CHARGES OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELINQUENCY OF MINORS, AND BECKER, A GERMAN CITIZEN, FACES POSSIBLE DEPORTATION FROM DENMARK.

2. ONE BIZARRE EVENT DURING THE WEEK WAS A DEMONSTRATION, COMPLETE WITH PLACARDS, BY THE MONTAGNARD CHILDREN EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH HENNING BECKER AND DEMANDING REUNION WITH THE ETHNIC VIETNAMESE (THE MONTEGNARDS HAD BEEN PLACED IN A SEPARATE SCHOOL EARLIER TO AVOID FRICTION WITH THE ETHNIC VIETNAMESE). GENERAL OPINION WAS THAT THE DEMONSTRATION HAD BEEN ENGINEERED BY BECKER AND HIS DANISH LAWYER.

3. BECKER TOLD BERLINGSKE TIDENDE THAT THE DANISH AUTHORITIES COULD EASILY HAVE SAVED MONEY AND TROUBLE BY ACCEPTING THE EARLIER OFFER OF FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY, INC. (COPENHAGEN 0411) TO RESETTLE THE GROUP ABROAD. IN RESPONSE, FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN CONFIRMED THAT THE OFFER HAD BEEN MADE, BUT THAT IT HAD BEEN REJECTED BY THE DANISH GOVERNMENT. ANDERSEN SAID THAT DENMARK'S PLAN FOR THE CHILDREN WAS "NOT TO SEND THEM TO THE USA (SIC), BUT AT THE RIGHT TIME TO SEND THEM HOME AGAIN. WE WANT THE CHILDREN TO SETTLE DOWN SO THAT THROUGH OUR OFFER OF EDUCATION THEY CAN PREPARE TO RETURN TO VIETNAM. WE NATURALLY COULD NOT ACCEPT THE OFFER FROM THE AMERICAN (SIC) ORGANIZATION."

4. THE DANISH PRESS HAS BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE VIETNAMESE CHILDREN. WHILE GENERALLY AGREEING THAT BECKER MAY WELL BE AN UNSUITABLE GUARDIAN FOR THE CHILDREN, THE PRESS CITED TREATMENT BY THE AUTHORITIES WHICH "WOULD HAVE CONFUSED EVEN THE MOST NORMAL DANISH CHILDREN", "BULLDOZER METHODS", AND "BROKEN PROMISES" (A REFERENCE TO PM ANKER JORGENSEN'S JANUARY 14 LETTER TO BECKER STATING THAT THE INTENTION OF THE DANISH MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE WAS NOT TO CHANGE THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CHILDREN AND BECKER). THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENERAL OPINION IS THAT THE DANISH AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN CLUMSY RATHER THAN ILL-WILLED OR HUNGRY FOR POWER, AND SHOULD NOT CONTINUE TO HOLD THE SPECTOR OF REPATRIATION OVER THE CHILDREN'S HEADS.

5. MRS. DUNG KRALL VISITED THE EMBASSY FEBRUARY 16 TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING AN APPOINTMENT WITH VU VAN HOA, AN ETHNIC VIETNAMESE AND THE SUBJECT OF A LONG-STANDING REQUEST FOR ADOPTION

BY CAPT. AND MRS. F. V. VIOLA (SEE 75 COPENHAGEN 2190). MRS. KRALL IS A FRIEND OF THE VIOLAS, WHO WERE ANXIOUS TO DETERMINE WHETHER HOA WAS STILL INTERESTED IN GOING TO HAWAII. THEIR ORIGINAL ADOPTION REQUEST, ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS, WAS TURNED DOWN BY THE DANES ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE CHILDREN WOULD EVENTUALLY BE RETURNED TO VIETNAM. AN MFA OFFICIAL HAD INFORMED THIS EMBASSY THAT NO FURTHER ACTION COULD BE TAKEN ON THE VIOLAS' REQUEST UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE A FINAL DECISION ON THE CHILDREN.

6. UNFORTUNATELY MRS. KRALL CONTACTED THE EMBASSY ON THE SAME DAY THAT HOA DISAPPEARED ALONG WITH TWO OTHERS AND REJOINED BECKER. ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY WAS ABLE TO PUT MRS. KRALL IN CONTACT WITH BECKER AND HIS LAWYER, AND THEY PROMISED HER AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 17, BECKER AND THE CHILDREN HAD GONE INTO HIDING BY THAT TIME AND A MEETING WAS IMPOSSIBLE. BY THE TIME HOA REAPPEARED ON FEBRUARY 20, MRS. KRALL WAS ON HER WAY BACK TO THE UNITED STATES. IN ANY CASE THE DANES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHILDREN INDICATED POLITELY BUT FIRMLY THAT IT WAS NOT A GOOD TIME FOR MRS. KRALL TO SEE HOA OR ANY OF THE OTHER CHILDREN. THE VIOLAS HAVE ENGAGED THE SERVICES OF A DANISH LAWYER WHO HAS UNDERTAKEN TO RESUBMIT THE ADOPTION PETITION WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE. ONLY COPENHAGEN PRESS REFERENCES TO MRS. KRALL'S VISIT WAS CRYPTIC REFERENCE IN WEEKLY BILLED BLADET TO RICH AMERICAN MOTHERS WAITING IN LINE TO ADOPT THE VIETNAMESE CHILDREN. ARTICLE SAID THE FIRST SUCH MOTHER WAS WAITING AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY TO TAKE HOA BACK TO THE US.

7. ON FEBRUARY 19 EMBASSY RECEIVED A VISIT FROM ONE HANS ULRICH HUYSEN, A GERMAN CITIZEN AND PERMANENT RESIDENT OF THE US, WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD MISSIONS FOR JESUS. HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BECKER AND EXPRESSED INTEREST ON BEHALF OF HIS ORGANIZATION IN TRANSFERRING THE MONTEGNARD CHILDREN TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE US. HE SAID HE WAS OUTRAGED AT PROSPECT OF CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY MONTAGNARDS, RETURNING TO VIETNAM, AND PROMISED EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY ADVERSE TO DANES IN EVENT IT APPEARED CHILDREN WOULD ACTUALLY BE RETURNED. HE PASSED ON TO EMBASSY SOME WEIRD STORIES CONCERNING ANONYMOUS TELEPHONE CALLS AND EXTENSIVE QUESTIONING BY AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBING HIMSELF AS A REPORTER FOR A NEWSPAPER WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE NONEXISTENT. EMBASSY REFERRED MR. HUYSEN TO DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL FOR MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING MONTAGNARDS.

8. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW SITUATION AND WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST, STRICTLY ALONG CORRECT CONSULAR LINES, AMCITS SUCH AS THE VIOLAS. BEYOND THIS, EMBASSY DOES NOT RECOMMEND ANY USG INVOLVEMENT IN THIS DANISH POLITICAL FOOTBALL. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY MFA HAS INFORMED EMBASSY OFF THE RECORD THAT CHILDREN WILL NOT BE

RETURNED TO VIETNAM AGAINST THEIR WISHES.  
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